



STATE REPRESENTATIVE  
**CORY MASON**

WISCONSIN STATE ASSEMBLY  
66TH ASSEMBLY DISTRICT  
*REPRESENTING THE RACINE COMMUNITY*

June 12, 2013

George LeVines  
MuckRock News  
Dept MR 5956  
PO Box 55819  
Boston, MA 02205-5819

Dear George,

This is in response to your open records request dated June 6, 2013, wherein you requested:


1. Any communications, memos and emails from January 1, 2013 to June 12, 2013 between the members of the Joint Committee on Finance concerning the Wisconsin Center for Investigative Journalism or its staff:
  - a. Andy Hall
  - b. Deborah Blum
  - c. Bill Lueders
  - d. Kate Golden
  - e. Christa Westerberg
  - f. Gail Kohl
  - g. Dee J. Hall
  - h. Lauren Fuhrmann
  - i. Mario Koran
  - j. Kate Prengaman
  - k. Tegan Wendland
  - l. Rory Linnane

We have completed a review of our files to respond to your request. The records you have requested are attached.

Sincerely,

**Cory Mason**  
State Representative  
66<sup>th</sup> Assembly District





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**From:** Jacob Kushner <jfkushner@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, June 05, 2013 6:09 PM  
**To:** undisclosed-recipients  
**Subject:** Letter in opposition to Provision 999 of the Wisconsin 2013-2015 Proposed Budget  
**Attachments:** Letter regarding Provision 999 of the Wisconsin 2013-2015 proposed Budget.pdf

Dear Representative,

Please see the attached letter which expresses opposition to Provision 999 approved today by the Joint Finance Committee. The letter is written by former student interns and contributors to the Wisconsin Center for Investigative Journalism.

Sincerely,  
Jacob Kushner, on behalf of those whose names appear on the attached letter.  
(608) 215-2452

June 5, 2013

To the members of the Wisconsin State Legislature Assembly and Senate:

We write to express our strong opposition to Provision 999 of the 2013-2015 budget approved today by the Joint Finance Committee. Entitled "Center for Investigative Journalism," the provision would "Prohibit the Board of Regents from permitting the Center for Investigative Journalism to occupy any facilities owned or leased by the Board of Regents. In addition, prohibit UW employees from doing any work related to the Center for Investigative Journalism as part of their duties as a UW employee."

As students and graduates of the University of Wisconsin-Madison who have previously interned, worked at or collaborated with the Wisconsin Center for Investigative Journalism, we can attest that the award-winning Center's presence on campus has been fundamental to helping us begin our careers as journalists. At the Center, we exposed how college campuses fail to support victims of sexual assaults; a former governor's violation of state travel regulations; the exploitation of foreign workers in Wisconsin tourist zones, and conducted dozens of other important investigations. Many of us have built upon our experiences at the Center by later reporting for Wisconsin and national media including Bloomberg, the Associated Press and Forbes, in cities and towns across Wisconsin and the United States, and in several countries throughout the world.

A core mission of the Center is to train the next generation of investigative journalists. It meets this mission in large part by collaborating with UW faculty in the Journalism school to provide students with experience in using public records, data, interviews and other research tools in their investigative reporting. Having the Center on campus allows Center staff to collaborate closely with UW students on a daily basis. Both the involvement of UW faculty and the presence of the Center on campus are critical to providing students with the opportunity to learn the ethics, values and logistics of reporting for the public good.

We urge the members of the Assembly and Senate to vote to remove Provision 999 from the 2013-2015 Budget.

Sincerely,

Jacob Kushner  
Intern, May 2009 to May 2010

Alex Morrell  
Intern, May 2009 to June 2010

Sara Jerving,  
Intern, September 2009 to July 2010

Alexandra Tempus  
Intern, May to December 2010

Lukas Keapproth  
Intern, January to August 2012

Alec Luhn  
Freelance reporter, June to August 2010

Jake Naughton  
Freelance contributor, Jan 2010 to May 2010

Phone Call: Media Request

Date: 6/6/2013

From: Tegan Wendland

Message: Schedule interview on component of Department of Workforce Development budget